However, the technology developed on laboratory scale when tested on a pilot plant did not yield satisfactory results. The capital investment sanctioned by the Government in 1974 for this project was Rs. 39.5 cr. Till 1988, when the project was shelved, the expenditure incurred was about Rs. 76.00 lakhs.

(c) After the shelving of the project, efforts for indigenous technology development for processing the Sukinda Nickel ores are being made by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Based on technology development by CSIR, Govt. have, in principle, agreed to the preparation of a Technoeconomic Feasibility Report for establishing a 10,000 tonnes per annum Nickel Extraction Plant using Sukinda Nickel ore.

Setting up of additional Check-posts Along Indo-Burma Border to Combat Smuggling Activities

467. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up additional check-posts with a view to curbing smuggling activities along the country's border with Burma;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that smuggling activities on the Indo-Burma border has increased sharply; and

(d) if so, to what extent the proposed measure will help in curbning smuggling activities on the border area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) Available reports indicate that the Indo-Burma Continue to be sensitive to smuggling. However, it is not feasible to say whether such smuggling activities have increased sharply at any paticular time. A proposal for creation of a Customs Preventive Sub-collectorate for combating smuggling across this border is being examined.

Instructions to Use Maruti Vans in Place of Ambassadors for Saving petrol

468. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instructed all Ministries/Departments to use Maruti vans in place of Ambassador cars to save petrol; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Instructions were issued in 1985 to all Central Government Departments that in addition to Ambassador/Fiat cars, they could purchase Maruti cars also for use as staff cars. Subsequently, purchase of Maruti vans and Gypsys was also allowed. These instructions have recently been reiterated, keeping in view the need to economise on consuption of fuel.

Smuggling Activities on Indo-Nepal Border

469. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have failed to curb smuggling activities across Indo-Nepal border;

(b) whether smuggling has increased steeply following reopening of the Khasa Kodari Road; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take to curb smuggling activities on the Indo-Nepal border?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Indo-Nepal border continues to be sensitive to smuggling activities. However, available reports do not indicate any steep increase in smuggling following reopening of Khasa Kodari road.

(c) Anti-smuggling machinery on the Indo-Nepal border has been geared up.